

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

April 2016
Upper Colorado Region



UC Today

Students Volunteer at Grand Junction Wildlife Area



By Justyn Liff
Public Affairs Specialist

On March 23, 2016, approximately 45 students from “Students Today Leaders Forever” at the University of Wisconsin volunteered at the Grand Junction Wildlife Area. The wildlife area is located in Grand



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Junction, Colorado and owned by Reclamation. The student project was arranged by Reclamation, the Tamarisk Coalition, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The student volunteers pruned trees and cut and removed weed barrier material from around cottonwood trees at the wildlife area. This project will ensure the health and growth of trees planted in the wildlife area 17 years ago. The trees are important because they provide wildlife habitat, soil stabilization, erosion control, and a measure of flood control.

Before the students started their project, they had the opportunity to learn about riparian restoration and the critical wildlife habitat located near the junction of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers.

Student leaders with the Wisconsin Chapter of “Students Today Leaders Forever” organized a “Pay It Forward” bus tour over their spring break from Madison, Wisconsin to Salt Lake City, Utah. The students completed four other volunteer projects before helping at the wildlife area. The wildlife area volunteer project is their last before they meet with other “Students Today Leaders Forever” members for their final volunteer project in Salt Lake City. Megan Dix, one of the student organizers said the volunteer projects have been and an amazing experience for all the students.

Photos below



After the weed barrier was removed



Before the weed barrier was removed



Close up of the barrier removal



Student removing the weed barrier



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Boy Scouts Tour the Provo Area Office



By Gary Henrie, P.E.
Hydrologic Civil Engineer

The Provo Area Office conducted a tour of their building to three groups of Boy Scouts recently. They all needed to tour a Federal facility to complete a requirement for the Citizenship in the Nation merit badge that they're all working on at the BYU merit badge PowWow.

On Wednesday, March 2, 2016, a group of six Boy Scouts and their scoutmaster toured the Provo Area Office. They were shown a satellite image of the United States (showing the green eastern half of the country and the brown 17 western states that the Bureau of Reclamation serves), watched the video "A Century of Water for the West", were shown maps of parts of the country served by Reclamation (from Reclamation-wide down to the Provo Area Office), viewed aerial photos of some of the Provo Area Office dams, guessed the volume of water in Strawberry Reservoir, walked around the office (and were impressed by the large plotters and rolls of paper), then saw some of the equipment inspection and rope access equipment used in Dam Safety inspections. The tour was after regular business hours and lasted approximately an hour.



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Mid-day on March 7, 2016, a group of two Boy Scouts, accompanied by one boy's mother, showed up and asked at the front desk if they could tour the facility. Through a websearch for Federal facilities they found our building. Gary Henrie showed them a satellite image of the United States and tried to see if they could read his mind and figure out what he found interesting about the image, which they actually did by guessing the contrast between the green eastern states and brown western states. They went through the boundaries of Reclamation down to our Provo Area Office, looked at aerial images of some dams, guessed the capacity of Strawberry Reservoir, took a quick walk around the office, saw Gary's work area, and received a tour of the Provo lab facilities. The tour was approximately 30-45 minutes.

At 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2016, a group of three Boy Scouts and their scoutmaster toured the Provo Area Office building. They looked at a satellite image of the United States showing a stark contrast between the water in the east and that in the west and watched the video "Traditions, Talent, and Teamwork" to learn a little about the Bureau of Reclamation and its purpose. They looked at aerial images of some Provo Area Office dams, guessed the capacity of Strawberry Reservoir, walked around the office, and talked about some of the work Gary does. At the end of the tour each Scout said one thing they learned about Reclamation. The tour lasted approximately 45 minutes.

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\$8.6 Million Contract Awarded for Construction of Orchard Mesa Irrigation District's Regulating Reservoir



Reclamation has awarded an \$8.6 million dollar contract for construction of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District's regulating reservoir. The 74 acre-foot regulating reservoir is located on Orchard Mesa, Colorado, and is part of Orchard Mesa Irrigation District's Canal System's Improvement Project. The overall project includes: construction of the regulating reservoir, upgraded check structures in canals,



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installation of remote monitoring systems, replacement of some open earth laterals with pressurized pipeline, and improved operational procedures.

The improvements will provide a more reliable water supply throughout the canal system and conserve approximately 17,000 acre-feet per year. This water will also benefit endangered fishes, wildlife, and river recreation in the important “15-Mile” reach of the Colorado River downstream of Palisade, Colorado.

The construction contract was awarded to Kissner General Contractors, Inc. from Cedaredge, Colorado. Construction on the regulating reservoir will begin in spring 2016 and be completed in spring 2017.

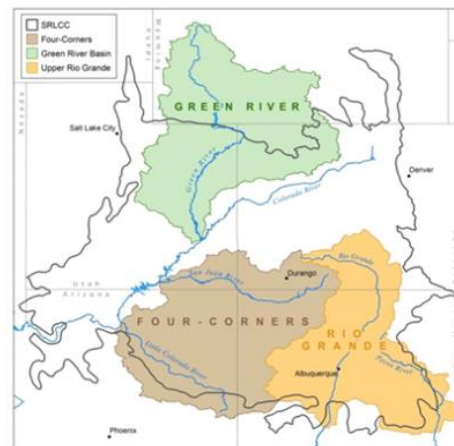
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What Do You Need to Know in the Next Five Years?

The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC) needs your feedback to plan next 5 years of developing relevant science and decision support tools for the adaptive management natural and cultural resources.

The SRLCC is a partnership of state and federal agencies, tribes and non-governmental organizations that own and/or manage natural and cultural resources. Partners have adopted a strategic conservation framework that focuses on cultural and natural resources within the area on the map. Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service host the SRLCC, and partners also contribute. By pooling time, talent, and treasure, no partner bears the entire cost of science investment—thus ensuring an efficient use of these valuable resources. Moreover, a multiyear, strategic Science Investment Plan allows partners to budget for science investments and to prioritize needs.

Geographic Focus Areas Within the Southern Rockies LCC



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In 2015, we asked resource managers, planners, stakeholders, and the research community about research needs within these geographic areas. This year, we will hold Adaptation Forums in Four-Corners and Upper Rio Grande Basin geographic focus areas to help us develop and deliver relevant science and decision support tools based on previous and ongoing SRLCC projects. We need to know about your concerns. What are your:

1. *Locally significant cultural and natural resources within each geographic focus area?*
2. *Significant landscape-scale threats/stressors/drivers related to the locally significant resources?*
3. *Pressing needs and questions related to the management of locally significant resources?*
4. *Key management objectives for the locally significant resources?*

We will also be evaluating the effectiveness of our science investments—you can see a list of the science projects at <http://southernrockieslcc.org/projects-2/science-projects/>. We'll be asking our Steering Committee, Science Working Group, resource focus groups and adaptation forum partners about the



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usefulness of the LCC science investments so far. How have you used this information? How can we make it more useful?

The results from ongoing and future science investments will be delivered back to partners during subsequent adaptation forums. Workshop results will also be used to select conservation targets for ongoing landscape planning efforts (e.g., vulnerability assessments) and to develop adaptation strategies for each geographic focus area. So invite your colleagues, stakeholders, and others to participate in these workshops to ensure we get the information that planners, researchers and resource managers need to do their jobs. You can participate in geographically focused Adaptation Forums, on resource focused subgroups, or on a wider scale. Your input is key to effectively using our limited resources to be the catalyst for the research we all need.

Workshop locations and dates:

- Four-Corners: May 4-5, Durango, CO
- Upper Rio Grande Basin: May 10-11, Albuquerque, NM

Go to <http://southernrockieslcc.org/projects-2/adaptation-forum-workshops-in-the-four-corners-upper-rio-grande-may-2016/> to RSVP for these workshops.

Original material
:The Southern Rockies LCC: Strategic, Efficient, Effective, Inclusive
Presentation Summary

Strategic: The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC; <http://southernrockieslcc.org/>) is a self-directed partnership consisting of state and federal agencies, tribes and non-governmental organizations that own and/or manage natural and cultural resources. The SRLCC partners have adopted a strategic conservation framework, focal cultural and natural resources, and geographic focal areas. This has allowed them to strategically invest in science that addresses partner-identified needs for management at the landscape scale.

In 2015, the partners initiated a **collaborative science investment** process that began with the needs of resource managers/planners within the geographic focus areas and engaged other stakeholders as well as the research community. In 2016, Adaptation Forum workshops will be convened in the Four-Corners and Upper Rio Grande Basin geographic focus areas. Workshops will be arranged around delivering and developing relevant science and decision support tools for the practitioner based on previous and ongoing SRLCC projects. In addition, the SRLCC will solicit feedback from Forum participants on:

1. *Locally significant cultural and natural resources within each geographic focus area*
2. *Significant landscape-scale threats/stressors/drivers related to the locally significant resources*
3. *Pressing needs and questions related to the management of locally significant resources*
4. *Key management objectives for the locally significant resources*

Efficient: The feedback we receive from participants will be integrated into the SRLCC Science Investment Plan for the next 5 years. A multiyear, strategic science investment plan allows partners to budget for science investment that leverages the investments of the host agencies (FWS and Reclamation). By pooling the time, talent and treasure of the partnership, no one partner bears the entire cost of science investment; thus ensuring an efficient use of these valuable resources.



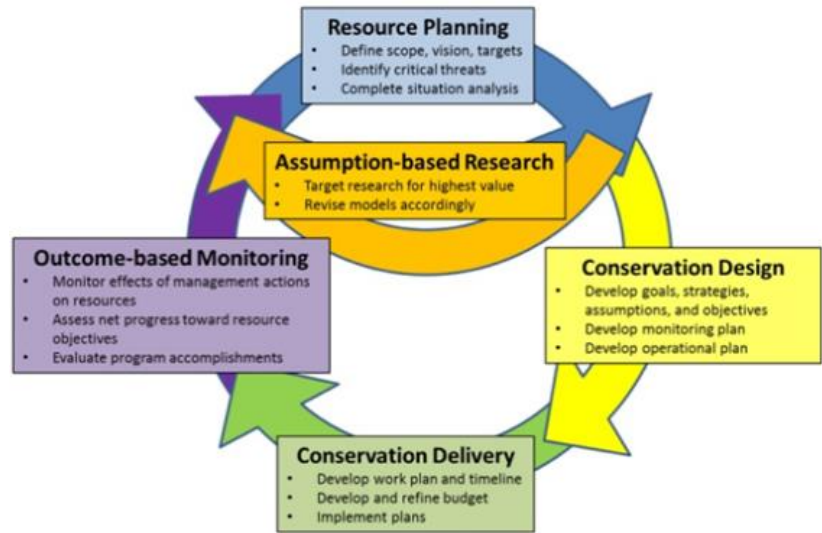
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Effective: we now have a process and a structure that will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of our science investments. That is, by querying (via information requests) our Steering Committee, Science Working Group, resource focus groups and adaptation forum partners about the utility of LCC science investments (which they have indicated they need).

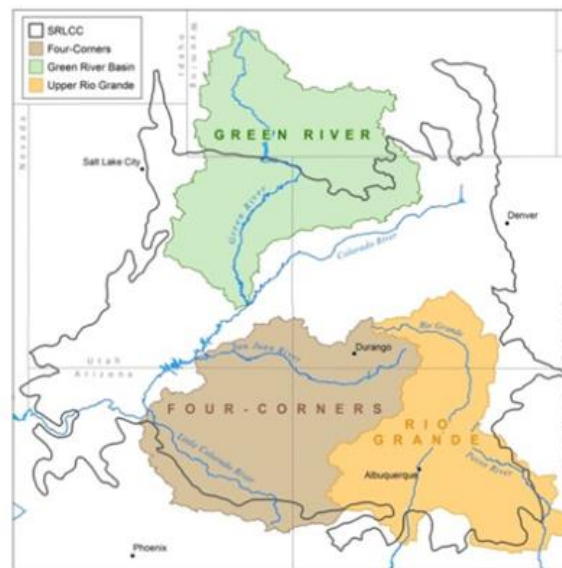
Inclusive: Workshop results will also be used to select conservation targets for ongoing landscape planning efforts (e.g. vulnerability assessments) and the development of adaptation strategies for each geographic focus area. The results from our science investments will be delivered back to the participants during subsequent adaptation forums.

The strategy outlined above ensures that participation in the LCC will complement the every-day job of our partners. A partner located or organized by state may participate in our adaptation forums that are organized around a particular geography. If they are only interested in a particular focal resource, they can participate in our conservation focus groups (sub-groups of the Science Working Group). It is my belief that this is key to developing a long-term relationship with our partners that is *not* based on how much funding we have in a given year (we will never be a cash cow), rather it is based on a real desire to do something for their organization and the resource (we can be a catalyst!). We offer something for everyone!

Southern Rockies LCC Strategic Conservation Framework



Geographic Focus Areas Within the Southern Rockies LCC



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Colorado River System Conservation Pilot Program



By Malcolm Wilson
Chief, Water Recourses Group

In June 2013, the Secretary of the Interior tasked the seven Colorado River Basin States with developing drought contingency plans. The Upper and Lower Division States have been working separately, but in consultation with Reclamation, on drought contingency plans including long-term components to reduce demand. Parallel to the development of drought contingency plans, major basin municipalities including the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Denver Water, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Southern Nevada Water Authority approached Reclamation to develop a System Conservation Pilot Program (SCPP) that will reduce Colorado River water use. The SCPP tests conservation projects that create “system water” through voluntary reductions in water use. All water conserved as a result of the SCPP becomes system water with the sole purpose of increasing storage levels in Lake Powell and does not accrue to the benefit of any individual user. The SCPP was established through a funding agreement signed by the funding partners on July 30, 2014, for an initial two-year term with the potential for extension.

In 2015, ten projects from only two of the Upper Basin states were or are being implemented resulting in approximately 3,000 acre-feet conserved. Successful project proposals represent different types of water saving mechanisms, water uses, geographic areas, and other criteria. The intent is to test a broad range of conservation measures that identify issues that need to be addressed for longer-term demand management projects to assist the Basin States’ long-term efforts under their drought contingency plans. The funding partners will evaluate the SCPP and consult with the Basin States and other interested parties to determine whether the SCPP should be extended or a longer-term system conservation program adopted.

Due to the 2015 success and resulting broader acceptance among water users, for 2016 thirty-two project proposals, covering all four Upper Basin states, have been received. Twenty-four of the projects, across all four states, are to be negotiated for award with practices including fallowing, split year irrigation, municipal diversion reduction and sod removal. These projects would result in as much as 14,000 acre-feet of water saved at a proposed cost of approximately \$1.9M.



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Volunteer Recognition



*By Kay Ellis, Administrative Officer
Four Corners Construction Office*

Many of you will think “Budget Analyst” when you think of Carolyn Norvelle. That, she was, for many years but retired well over a year ago.

More recently, Carolyn was a Reclamation Volunteer, filling in gaps and mentoring new staff at the Four Corners Construction Office.

On March 31, we had the opportunity to show our appreciation through a luncheon in her honor, at Los Hermanitos Restaurant in Farmington. It certainly felt like a “family affair!”

Carolyn was given an herb garden for sharing her THYME, as well as SOWING SEEDS from her SAGE knowledge. She truly is SUP-HERB!

Reclamation is also superb – it is a place where we do become “family” and remain so even through retirement. Good food! Good friends! Great times!!



*Tom Roe (Reclamation retiree), Michael Howe,
Philoma Singer, Stephan McDougal, Carolyn Norvelle,*



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Working Together to Find the Answers We All Need

Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC) helps answer the questions that keep people who manage key natural resources such as water, animals, and plants up at night.

Planners and scientists, decision-makers and stakeholders at all levels—Federal, state, local, tribal, and private—toss and turn over heaping piles of complex data and yawning data gaps, wondering things like:

- What are potential impacts of drought and climate fluctuations on hydrology and habitats?
- What do we need to know for effective adaptive management in so many different major ecosystems—from alpine tundra to grasslands and from woodlands to desert shrublands?
- What do the sensitive species across a broad range of habitats need to survive and thrive?

The Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC) brings agencies together to develop a shared understanding of environmental changes for more effective resource conservation and adaptation. Encompassing large portions of four states: Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as smaller parts of Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada; the SRLCC covers a topographically complex region that includes the headwaters of the Colorado River and Rio Grande, the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains to the west, and the Southern Rocky Mountains to the east, separated by the rugged tableland of the Colorado Plateau.

SRLCC identifies shared priorities and develops spatially-explicit resource stewardship goals. As the partner organizations are so diverse, members gain a wide perspective on resource management information needs and priorities: from a local byway to a national research map. By developing shared conservation goals, the SRLCC partnership works together to identify where and how to achieve larger and lasting conservation with a landscape scale impact and provides scientific decision support for resource management.

Everyone in the SRLCC shares the tools they have, creating opportunities to leverage available science to answer their pressing questions. Where new tools and data are needed, SRLCC funds projects for ecological research, information management, and resource conservation. The SRLCC's Steering Committee sets the vision, goals, and priorities for these new research projects, and the Science Workgroup develops foundational information and provides recommendations to the Steering Committee. This on-going dialog between scientists and resource managers helps inform conservation planning, conservation and adaptive management. By sharing our data, we can work to meet our resource needs—filling those troublesome gaps and effectively sharing and using the data we have.

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Boat Inspections Required to Prevent Spread of Nuisance Species



Memorial Day weekend may be the official start of the 2016 boating season, but some Colorado lakes and reservoirs open as early as March 1.

So Colorado Parks and Wildlife is reminding boaters they need to help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

The best way is to be sure a watercraft and all gear is clean, drained and dry in between each and every use, according to a press release. If it can't be drained (e.g. ballast tanks, inboard/outboard or inboard engines) it needs to be decontaminated when moving between locations within 30 days that are positive and negative for aquatic nuisance species, CPW officials said.

The agency requires inspection for all boats that were launched at any time in another state, prior to entering Colorado's waters, and after boating in any waters positive for zebra and quagga mussels, non-native waterflea, New Zealand mudsnail, or Eurasian watermilfoil.

Last year the agency found its highest number of infested mussel interceptions from out-of-state boats, and halted 24 infested boats from contaminating Colorado waters with zebra or quagga mussels.

"A zebra or quagga mussel infestation could make water delivery and infrastructure systems for homes, farms and businesses very expensive," according to Elizabeth Brown, CPW's invasive species coordinator. "Keeping Colorado's water free of invasive species is also critical to providing high quality fishing and boating opportunities for our residents and visitors."

Mussels can survive out of water for 30 days. If boats move from positive waters to negative waters, the boat must be clean, drained and dry for 30 days or decontaminated.



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"The system really works to prevent introductions and movement of ANS by recreational boats," Brown said. "In the last few years, Colorado has been able to take almost all waters off of the positive list for zebra and quagga mussels, while waters in other states, such as in Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota and Lake Powell in Utah, without mandatory inspection and decontamination programs, continue to become infested."

For more info, visit the [Reporter Herald](#).

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Welcome From Marlon Duke



I'm honored to serve alongside each of you as the Upper Colorado (UC) Region's new Public Affairs Officer. I've only been here for six weeks but am already immensely impressed with your professionalism, skill, dedication, and sensitivity to Reclamation's complex mission. Thank you for your warm and enthusiastic welcome to the Reclamation family!

James Madison once said, "A popular government without popular information or a means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or tragedy, or perhaps both." In the Public Affairs Division, that is our mandate—we work to enable and facilitate an efficient flow of information.

Our Public Affairs Division informs customers, stakeholders, partners, overseers, and employees about Reclamation's mission, programs, accomplishments, challenges, and priorities. We work to support you by planning and carrying out effective communication for your projects; aimed at fostering support and cooperation from those customers, stakeholders, and the public. We field and respond to inquiries from the media, public, government overseers, and partner organizations. We provide advice regarding public opinion and engagement strategies for complex Reclamation issues and decisions. We maintain relationships with media and other organizations to ensure an open exchange of information. And we leverage those relationships to build a strong community of support among our stakeholder groups.

However, while the public affairs staff provides the region's front line capabilities for engagement, open and consistent communication is a shared responsibility among all federal employees. In that regard, our successful public affairs efforts hinge on a symbiotic relationship with each division, area office, field division, and program within the UC Region. We use existing information as much as possible, but will always rely on subject matter experts like you for the latest information on project details, accomplishments, timelines, challenges, and upcoming decisions. Working together in this way, we can ensure an effective and successful public communication approach across the region.

When I first met with the Public Affairs Division I explained my three principles for success—which I believe apply regardless of where you work in the region.



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1. **Integrity.** We must stay true to our oath as federal employees and always do the right thing for Reclamation's mission here in the UC Region. We have a duty to ourselves, our teams, the region, agency, and every American citizen to give our best effort to accomplish our constitutionally-supported mission. We should be true to our word; make commitments carefully and then always keep them. And we must hold ourselves and each other accountable...fairly and effectively.
2. **Professionalism.** Excellence should be our watchword and the UC Region should set the standard for competency within the federal government. Learning is a lifelong pursuit—where you find gaps in your own competency, or that of your team, look for learning, training or continued education opportunities. Don't wait for your supervisor to identify opportunities for you—take charge of your growth; seek out opportunities and then go talk with your supervisor. Teamwork is crucial. Remember, we always succeed best when we work as a team. Perhaps most important, never forget that customer service underpins everything we do.
3. **Care.** None of us can fulfill our employment duties if we neglect our personal needs or those of our teammates and loved ones. Balance is important. Devote your best effort to your job but don't overlook other aspects of your life for similar devotion. Take care of yourself; continue or adopt healthy habits; devote appropriate time for hobbies and recreation; learn a new skill or sport; spend quality time with your family, friends and loved ones. This also applies to our office teams—be sensitive to teammates who may need extra support or might be struggling under the challenges of life. Lend a helping hand, listening ear or shoulder of support when needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these thoughts. I look forward to working with each of you to accomplish the Upper Colorado Region's mission and to build, strengthen and maintain relationships with stakeholders who can shape the destiny of Reclamation here and nationwide.

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Who's New

Kristin Bowen

Western Colorado Area Office – Archaeologist



Kristin Bowen is a new Archaeologist located in the Durango, Colo. for the Western Colorado Area Office. Kristin is originally from Montana, and received her Master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Montana. She has worked as an Archaeologist for the BLM and the Forest Service in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Nevada. She is also the author of a pictorial history book on Meeker, Colorado. Kristin is very excited to be here and working with the amazing archaeology of the Four Corners region. She is looking forward to visiting all the archaeological sites and breweries in the Durango area, as well as spending time hiking and fishing, and is currently taking up archery.

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Matt DeAmico

Western Colorado Area Office – Hydrologic Technician



Matt DeAmico is the new Hydrologic Technician for the Western Colorado Area Office's Water Resources Group in Durango, Colo. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and a Masters in Water Resources Engineering from Portland State University in Oregon. Matt has experience in both the private and public sectors working in engineering design, water rights, contract management, and construction inspection. Matt is glad to be in the Durango area spending time exploring the outdoors. He has a clear understanding that the USBR boat is not for fishing.

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Eric Gonzales

Albuquerque Area Office – Fish Biologist



Eric Gonzales is the new Fish Biologist in the Environment and Lands Division of the Albuquerque Area Office. He is from Taos originally, but has lived in Albuquerque and worked on the Middle Rio Grande for several years. Eric applied for this position thinking, “this was a good opportunity to work with the Bureau. As a native New Mexican, I’m well aware of the importance of Reclamation facilities and projects to the people of the Western United States.”

Eric’s interests include hunting, fishing, making beer, fly tying, and gardening – “anything hands on really. I have a large tomato garden and am trying to get into bow hunting.” He particularly likes to cultivate heirloom breeds from seed. He lives with his wife, Melissa Mata-Gonzales, a biologist at the Fish and Wildlife Service, their 3½ year old Dason, and two dogs, Honey, a lab/golden mix, and Kernel, a mini-dachshund/hound mix.

Eric’s talents include statistics and data analysis. His favorite author is John Steinbeck; he particularly loves his books *Tortilla Flat* and *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*. His favorite genres of books include history or investigative accounts. Some favorites are *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* (Michael Pollan 2006), *The Conquest of New Spain* (Bernal Diaz Del Castillo - Author, and John M. Cohen – Translator, 1963), and *The Emerald Mile: The Epic Story of the Fastest Ride in History Through the Heart of the Grand Canyon* (Kevin Fedarko 2013).

A big fan of the Michigan State University Spartans Men’s Basketball team, he likes head coach, Tom Izzo. Eric plays the guitar, and his favorite band is The Black Keys, particularly the song *Sinister Kid*.



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His favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, eating food and watching football with his family. Eric's favorite quote is "Work hard; play hard."

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Jolyn Goss

Upper Colorado Regional Office - Acquisition Management Division



What brought me to Reclamation was after 15 years with the BLM, I decided it was time to see new adventures with another agency.

My special interests are quilting and geology. As my hobbies are quilting/sewing and reading. I have one daughter, Reva, who is turning 13 in April, and my fiancé is John. My talents would be FBMS and developing Processes. My favorite book/authors are Harry Potter Series, Hunger Games, Michael Palmer, Vince Flynn, David Baldacco, Dan Brown. My favorite genre of movies/books are comedy, romance, suspense, and action, everything but horror films.

A television character I simply adore would be Elizabeth Thatcher, Jack Thornton, yes I am a #Heartie #Postable #Oncer #Good Witch. My taste in music would be all genres except heavy metal. My favorite holiday would be a tossup between Halloween and Christmas.

The one word that would best describe me would be vibrant and my favorite motto is, "a smile is a cure that sets everything straight."

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Jeff Rice

Albuquerque Area Office – Civil Engineering Tech/Surveyor



Robert "Jeff" Rice is the new Civil Engineering Tech/Surveyor in the Major Projects Division of the Albuquerque Area Office. He previously worked for Reclamation from 2011-2015 at the Four Corners Construction Office in Farmington, New Mexico. Jeff then took a position in Tennessee. When the Civil Engineering Tech job opened at the AAO, he applied, hoping to come back to Reclamation and do work similar to what he had done in Farmington. Jeff really enjoys the land surveying aspect of the job.

Jeff lives with his wife, Diane, four female dogs; Jeri, Sugar, Mabel, and Sami, and their pet mallard duck named "Ducky." Some of Jeff's hobbies include drawing and sketching, playing softball, and running with his dogs. He loves the History Channel and books on history and geography, and is currently reading Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Jeff's favorite television show was "The Closer" and his favorite



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television character is Saul Goodman. He enjoys listening to classical music and has a particular fondness for the composers Beethoven and Mozart. His favorite holiday is Thanksgiving and his favorite quote is “Be the person your dog thinks you are.”

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In Transition

Retirement – Beverley Heffernan

Beverley Heffernan is retiring on April 1 after 30 years of Federal service. She began her career during the Ford administration in Washington, DC, at the Federal Energy Administration, which later became part of the Department of Energy, and worked there until 1997. In 2001, she joined the Provo Area Office as Flaming Gorge Environmental Impact Statement project manager, later becoming Environmental Group Chief before coming to the Regional Office as Environmental Resources Division Manager in 2010. Here is her farewell message:

“After 20 years ‘inside the Beltway,’ I have very much appreciated working with good people in Provo and in the Upper Colorado Region to get things done to assure water delivery in the arid West. It is challenging but rewarding work, and I’ll miss that as well as great colleagues and in particular the outstanding members of the Environmental Resources Division. But I am looking forward to many new adventures, including seeing more of the world from this perspective:



Let me borrow a line from Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, and say happy trails to you, until we meet again!”



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John Ernest “Ernie” Gregg Jr. August 1924 – March 2016



John Ernest Gregg Jr, also known as "Ernie" or "Sonny" to his Texas Family, passed away peacefully at Collier Hospice Care in Denver on March 2, 2016 surrounded by family after suffering a traumatic brain injury resulting from a fall raking pine needles in his front yard.

Ernie was born August 5, 1924 in Marfa, Texas to John Ernest Gregg Sr. and Mary Elizabeth ("Bessie") Gregg. His father was Superintendent of Schools for the Marfa Independent School District and Ernie told many stories of growing up in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. He often spoke of his favorite horse, Pecos, which he could shoot from the saddle and the horse never flinched.

After graduating high school in 1942 from Marfa High School where he played football, tennis and ran track he went on to attend Texas A&M University where he graduated with Honors in 1948 with a degree in mechanical engineering. His studies were interrupted by WWII where he was training to be a flight navigator with the Army Air Corps on the B-29 bomber, training for the potential invasion and bombing of Japan but, the war ended before he flew any combat missions.

After his military service and upon graduating, he started work with the Bureau of Reclamation in Chico, California working on the Shasta Dam project and transferred to Durango, Colorado in 1953. During his 33 years with the Bureau of Reclamation he worked on many water storage and irrigation projects including Lemon Reservoir, McPhee Reservoir, the Animas-La Plata Project, as well as the Navajo Nation Irrigation Project. He retired as the Chief Project Engineer from the Durango office in 1979.

Ernie married Mary Ann Creek, a widow with three small children on June 28, 1975. After being a bachelor for many years, he loved his new wife and children dearly. They enjoyed many outings to the family cabin at Vallecito Reservoir, camping in their Twilight Bungalow camper, traveling the western slope for swim meets, back packing the San Juan's, snowmobiling, canoeing, boating, camping with Boy Scouts, and traveling across the west and to Europe.

In addition to enjoying family outings, Ernie was a master gunsmith, enjoyed woodworking, hunting, fly fishing, and fly tying and was on the Federal Lumber Bowling team for many years. Ernie was also a member of Kiwanis and enjoyed photography, bird watching, and gardening and took great joy in the strawberries he could grow at 6500 Ft. His love for flying continued for many years in his Cessna 172 as he flew his kids to swim meets, family reunions and Girl Scout camps across the country. Ernie also was a lifetime member of the NRA and designed and helped build the indoor gun club located on Florida road and helped build the warming hut at Chapman Hill.

Not only was Ernie a wonderful father and husband, he was a devote Christian and member of the First United Methodist Church for over 50 years. During his time serving the Lord and the Church, he held every office in the Methodist Church and has been a member of the Methodist Men's weekly breakfast prayer group where he perfected his recipe for biscuits and gravy and enjoyed his coffee.



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After his retirement, Ernie and his wife enjoyed traveling around the world. Their travels took them to Norway, Scotland, Ireland, The Holy Lands, Switzerland, Germany, Mexico and Alaska, not to mention the many camping trips across Colorado and the west with the Good Sam's Club. Ernie also was an avid Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rockies and Houston Astros fan. He enjoyed watching many games on TV with the fire crackling and eating popcorn with his bride.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Mary Ann of Durango, Sisters, Elaine Boyer of Decatur, Texas and Mary Gregg of Denton Texas. Ernie was father to Mark Creek of Flagstaff, Arizona, Jim Creek of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Mary Jo Gerster of Golden, Colorado. Ernie also has three nieces, Jann Rainey of Hilton Head, South Carolina, Judy Boyer-Deaton of Decatur, Texas and Ellen Boyer of Fort Worth, Texas. Ernie was also blessed with nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Water infrastructure bill needs more work](#)

[Protect feet and paws from sharp Quagga mussel shells on Lake Powell shorelines](#)

[Rio Grande to flow again near Las Cruces in late March](#)

[Udall Fights for New Mexico Priorities in Interior Department Budget](#)

[County fears additional burden at Navajo Lake](#)

[Interior aims to get more youth on public lands](#)

[New Mexico is getting federal funding to build a floodway near Socorro and two other water projects related to the Rio Grande](#)

[Colorado River flows reduced by warmer spring temperatures](#)

[County Commission to discuss tax, Navajo Lake](#)

[Water supply estimates fall for most of the West](#)

[NAVAJO PRESIDENT BEGAYE ISSUES STATEMENT ON FEDERAL INVESTIGATION IGNORING EPA NEGLIGENCE REGARDING GOLD KING MINE SPILL](#)

[2016 Utah Water Users Workshop reveals some new tactics](#)

[How Sally Jewell Is Opening Wild Lands to Underprivileged Kids](#)

[Public comment period extended for Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP draft environmental impact Statement](#)

[Utah urges local ownership of some federal water projects](#)

[Lessons in water management](#)

[Mancos pursues title transfer of Jackson Gulch Reservoir](#)

[Study released on irrigation-sharing agreement](#)

[Tiny flycatcher may lose its endangered classification](#)

[Irrigation releases earlier this year](#)

[Southern New Mexico farmers eye lower water allotment](#)

[Good irrigation news flows to El Paso farmers](#)



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[Marsh Buggies rescue Rio Grande](#)

[Quagga mussels now found in nearly all parts of Lake Powell](#)

[Orchard Mesa Irrigation District's Regulating Reservoir Construction Contract \(Video\)](#)

[Albuquerque-Bernalillo County water authority is being forced to pay for a massive sewage spill \(Video\)](#)

[Difficulties arise in efforts to save water for Powell](#)

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Photo taken by Casey Smith

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. List the symptoms of CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. One of the Socorro crews is currently performing work at _____ through an interagency agreement with _____ and the _____.
3. The “_____” portal details the state of the watershed that supplies _____ Americans and _____ of land with water, despite reservoirs at about _____ capacity.



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Last week, We asked,

1. According to the Information/Briefing Memorandum provided by the Provo Area Office, **The A.V. Watkins Dam**, was constructed from **1958-1964**.
2. Becky Begay explained how one would introduce themselves utilizing the Dine clan system by stating- **"I am born to the Greek People and born for the French People. My maternal grandfathers are the Swiss People and my paternal grandfathers are the English People."**
3. Hadrosaurs were **bipedal herbivores**, also known as **"duck-billed"** dinosaurs.

Last winner was – **JoLyn Goss/ Alighieri Saenz**

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

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